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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
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11 JIMMY SIMEONA MALO,
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13 vs. Petitioner,
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15 CYNTHIA TAMPKINS, Warden, et
16 al.,
17 Respondents.

CASE NO. 13-CV-02449

**ORDER GRANTING
RESPONDENT'S MOTION
TO DISMISS PETITION FOR
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
AND ADOPTING
MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION**

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20 On October 2, 2013, Petitioner Jimmy Simeona Malo ("Petitioner"), a state
21 prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28
22 U.S.C. § 2254. (Doc. No. 1.) On January 7, 2014, Respondent Warden Cynthia
23 Tampkins ("Respondent") filed a motion to dismiss. (Doc. No. 14.) On April 23,
24 2014, the magistrate judge issued a report and recommendation that the Court grant
25 Respondent's motion to dismiss. (Doc. No. 17.) On May 19, 2014, Petitioner filed his
26 objection to the report and recommendation. (Doc. No. 18.) For the following reasons,
27 the Court grants Respondent's motion to dismiss and adopts the magistrate judge's
28 report and recommendation.

1 **I. Background**

2 On October 16, 2006, Petitioner was charged with three charges of attempted
3 murder and three charges of assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer. On
4 November 2, 2006, a jury acquitted Petitioner of these charges but convicted him of
5 the lesser included offenses of one count of attempted voluntary manslaughter and
6 three counts of assault with a firearm on a peace officer. (Lodgment No. 4, People
7 v. Malo, No. D051302, slip. op. at 5 (Cal. Ct. App. Dec. 2, 2008).) The Superior
8 Court of San Diego County sentenced him to eleven years and eight months in
9 prison plus \$10,000 in restitution. (Id. at 6; Doc. No. 1 at 2.)

10 On March 19, 2008, Petitioner appealed his convictions to the California
11 Court of Appeal. (Lodgment No. 1, Appellant's Opening Brief, People v. Malo, No.
12 D051302 (Cal. Ct. App. Dec. 2, 2008).) On December 2, 2008, the court of appeal
13 affirmed the judgment of the Superior Court of San Diego County. (Lodgment No.
14 4, People v. Malo, No. D051302, slip op. at 1.) On January 12, 2009, Petitioner
15 filed a petition for review with the California Supreme Court. (Lodgment No. 5,
16 Petition for Review, People v. Malo, [No. S169639] (Cal. Feb. 25, 2009).) On
17 February 25, 2009, the California Supreme Court denied the petition for review.
18 (Lodgment No. 6, People v. Malo, No. S169639, order (Cal. Feb. 25, 2009).)

19 On December 5, 2012, Petitioner filed his first petition for writ of habeas
20 corpus in the San Diego County Superior Court. (Lodgment No. 7, Malo v. People,
21 No. HCN 1265 (Cal. Super. Ct. filed Dec. 5, 2012) (petition for writ of habeas
22 corpus at 3, 5, 6).) The petition alleged ineffective assistance of counsel, the
23 imposition of an illegal sentence enhancement, and prosecutorial misconduct. (Id.)
24 On December 28, 2012, the Superior Court denied the petition. (Lodgment No. 8,
25 In re Malo, No. HCN 1265, order at 3 (Cal. Super. Ct. Dec. 28, 2012).) On January
26 28, 2013, Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the California Court
27 of Appeal on the same grounds raised in his petition to the superior court.
28 (Lodgment No. 9, Malo v. People, [No. D063360] (Cal. Ct. App. filed Jan. 28,

1 2013) (petition for writ of habeas corpus at 3, 5, 6.) On March 7, 2013, the
2 California Court of Appeal denied the petition. (Lodgment No. 10, In re Malo, No.
3 D063360, order at 2 (Cal. Ct. App. Mar. 7, 2013).) On April 24, 2013, Petitioner
4 filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus with the California Supreme Court alleging
5 ineffective assistance of counsel, an illegally enhanced sentence, and an illegal
6 restitution fine. (Lodgment No. 11, Malo v. People, No. S210290 (Cal. Filed Apr.
7 24, 2013) (petition for writ of habeas corpus at 3, 6, 7).) On June 12, 2013, the
8 California Supreme Court denied the petition. (Lodgment No. 12, In re Malo, No.
9 S210290, order (Cal. June 12, 2013).) On September 25, 2013, Petitioner filed his
10 federal petition in the District Court for the Southern District of California making
11 the same arguments based on ineffective assistance of counsel, Petitioner's sentence
12 enhancement, and Petitioner's restitution fine. (Doc. No. 1).

13 On January 7, 2014, Respondent filed a Motion to Dismiss and Notice of
14 Lodgment. (Doc. Nos. 14, 15.) Respondent's motion argues that (1) Petitioner's
15 claims based on his sentencing enhancement and restitution fine fail to state a claim
16 because they are not based on federal constitutional rights; (2) procedural default
17 bars relief on Petitioner's claims based on his sentencing enhancement and
18 restitution fine; and (3) all of Petitioner's claims are untimely. (Doc. No. 14-1 at 10,
19 11, 15.) In his Opposition, Petitioner claims that (1) his claims based on his
20 sentencing enhancement and restitution fine are premised on his constitutional
21 rights, (2) his claims are not procedurally defaulted because he has shown cause and
22 prejudice for his delay in raising them in state court and (3) his claims are timely
23 because he is entitled to statutory and equitable tolling. (Doc. No. 16. at 1-8.) On
24 April 23, 2014, the magistrate judge issued a report and recommendation to dismiss
25 the petition for writ of habeas corpus. (Doc. No. 17.)

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1 **II. Legal Standards**

2 **A. Legal Standard of Review Under AEDPA**

3 A district court “may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the
4 findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge.” 28 U.S.C. §
5 636(b)(1). If a party objects to any portion of the report, the district court must
6 “make a de novo determination of those portions of the report . . . to which
7 objection is made.” Id.

8 A federal court may review a petition for writ of habeas corpus by a person in
9 custody following a state court judgment “only on the ground that he is in custody
10 in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” Id.; accord
11 Williams v. Taylor, 529 U.S. 362, 375 n.7 (2000). Habeas corpus is an
12 “extraordinary remedy” available only to those “persons whom society has
13 grievously wronged and for whom belated liberation is little enough compensation.”
14 Juan H. v. Allen, 408 F.3d 1262, 1270 (9th Cir. 2005) (quoting Brecht v.
15 Abrahamson, 507 U.S. 619, 633-34 (1993)). Because Petitioner filed his petition
16 after April 24, 1996, the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996
17 (“AEDPA”) governs the petition. See Lindh v. Murphy, 521 U.S. 320, 327 (1997);
18 Chein v. Shumsky, 373 F.3d 978, 983 (9th Cir. 2004) (en banc). “By its terms §
19 2254(d) bars relitigation of any claim ‘adjudicated on the merits’ in state court,
20 subject only to the exceptions in §§ 2254(d)(1) and (d)(2).” Harrington v. Richter,
21 131 S. Ct. 770, 784 (2011). Indeed, “[w]hen a federal claim has been presented to a
22 state court and the state court has denied relief, it may be presumed that the state
23 court adjudicated the claim on the merits in the absence of any indication or state-
24 law procedural principles to the contrary.” Id. Federal habeas relief is available,
25 but only if the result of a federal claim the state court adjudicated on the merits is
26 “contrary to,” or “an unreasonable application” of United States Supreme Court
27 precedent, or if the adjudication is “an unreasonable determination” based on the
28 facts and evidence. 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254(d)(1) and 2254(d)(2).

1 A federal court may grant habeas relief under the “contrary to” clause of §
2 2254(d)(1) if a state court either “applies a rule that contradicts the governing law
3 set forth in [the United States Supreme Court’s] cases” or “confronts a set of facts
4 that are materially indistinguishable from a decision of [the] Court and nevertheless
5 arrives at a result different from [the Court’s] precedent.” Early v. Packer, 537 U.S.
6 3, 8 (2002); see also Williams, 529 U.S. at 405-06 (distinguishing the “contrary to”
7 and the “unreasonable application” standards). “[R]eview under 28 U.S.C. §
8 2254(d)(1) is limited to the record that was before the state court that adjudicated
9 the claim on the merits.” Cullen v. Pinholster, 131 S. Ct. 1388, 1398 (2011).

10 A federal court may grant habeas relief under the “unreasonable application”
11 clause of § 2254(d)(1) if the state court “identifies the correct governing legal rule
12 from [the Supreme] Court’s cases but unreasonably applies it to the facts of the
13 particular state prisoner’s case.” Williams, 529 U.S. at 407. A federal court may
14 also grant habeas relief “if the state court either unreasonably extends a legal
15 principle from [Supreme Court] precedent to a new context where it should not
16 apply or unreasonably refuses to extend that principle to a new context where it
17 should apply.” Id. The state court’s “unreasonable application” of binding
18 precedent must be objectively unreasonable to the extent that the state court
19 decision is more than merely incorrect or erroneous. Wiggins v. Smith, 539 U.S.
20 510, 520-21 (2003) (citation omitted); see also Lockyer v. Andrade, 538 U.S. 63,
21 75-76 (2003).

22 Additionally, even if a state court decision is contrary to United States
23 Supreme Court precedent or rests on an unreasonable determination of facts in light
24 of the evidence, the petitioner must show that such error caused substantial or
25 injurious prejudice. Penry v. Johnson, 532 U.S. 782, 795 (2001) (quoting Brecht,
26 507 U.S. at 637-38); see Fry v. Pliler, 551 U.S. 112, 121-22 (2007). AEDPA
27 creates a highly deferential standard toward state court rulings. Woodford v.
28 Viscotti, 537 U.S. 19, 24 (2002); see Womack v. Del Papa, 497 F.3d 998, 1001 (9th

1 Cir. 2007).

2 **B. Statute of Limitations under AEDPA**

3 Under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d), a petitioner has one year from the date his
4 conviction is final to file a petition for writ of habeas corpus in federal court. See
5 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d). A federal petition for writ of habeas corpus may be dismissed
6 with prejudice when it was not filed within one year. Jiminez v. Rice, 276 F.3d 478,
7 483 (9th Cir. 2001). The statute of limitations is a threshold issue that must be
8 resolved before the merits of individual claims. White v. Klitzkie, 281 F.3d 920,
9 921-22 (9th Cir. 2002).

10 The purpose of AEDPA's one year statute of limitations is to uphold the
11 finality of state judgments and reduce delay in federal proceedings. See Duncan v.
12 Walker, 533 U.S. 167, 179 (2001). AEDPA's statute of limitations effectively
13 "promotes judicial efficiency and conservation of judicial resources, safeguards the
14 accuracy of state court judgments by requiring resolution of constitutional questions
15 while the record is fresh, and lends finality to state court judgments within a
16 reasonable time." Day v. McDonough, 547 U.S. 198, 205 (2006) (quoting Acosta v.
17 Artuz, 221 F.3d 117, 122 (2nd Cir. 2000)).

18 **C. Standard for Ineffective Assistance of Counsel**

19 In Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 686 (1984), the United States
20 Supreme Court recognized that "the right to counsel is the right to effective
21 assistance of counsel." To prove ineffective assistance of counsel, a petitioner must
22 show that his attorney's representation fell below an objective standard of
23 reasonableness. Id. at 688. The petitioner must also prove he was prejudiced by
24 demonstrating a reasonable probability that but for his counsel's errors, the result of
25 the proceeding would have been different. Id. at 694.

26 "Surmounting Strickland's high bar is never an easy task." Padilla v.
27 Kentucky, 559 U.S. 356, 372 (2010). In evaluating whether counsel's performance
28 was deficient, "[j]udicial scrutiny of counsel's performance must be highly

1 deferential." Strickland, 466 U.S. at 689. "Strickland places the burden on the
2 [petitioner] to overcome the 'strong presumption' that counsel's performance was
3 within the 'wide range of reasonable professional assistance' and might be
4 considered 'sound trial strategy.'" Carrera v. Ayers, 670 F.3d 938, 943 (9th Cir.
5 2011) (quoting Strickland, 466 U.S. at 689). To establish prejudice under
6 Strickland, a petitioner must demonstrate that the attorney's error rendered the result
7 unreliable or the trial fundamentally unfair. See, e.g., Fretwell v. Lockhart, 506
8 U.S. 364, 372 (1993). If the court concludes that the petitioner fails to satisfy either
9 component of the Strickland standard, it need not address the other. Stanley v.
10 Schriro, 598 F.3d 612, 619 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing Strickland, 466 U.S. at 697).

11 **III. Discussion**

12 **A. Statute of Limitations**

13 Respondent argues that Petitioner's federal habeas petition is untimely
14 because it was filed on September 25, 2013, more than three years after the statute
15 of limitations imposed by 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) expired on May 27, 2010. (Doc. No.
16 14-1 at 8-9.) In cases challenging a conviction, the statute of limitations begins to
17 run once a petitioner's direct review becomes final. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(A).
18 Here, Petitioner's judgment became final on May 26, 2009, as this was ninety days
19 after the California Supreme Court denied his petition for review. See Cal. Sup. Ct.
20 R. 13. The statute of limitations therefore began to run on May 27, 2009, the day
21 after the judgment became final, and expired one year later on May 27, 2010. See
22 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(A). Petitioner filed his federal habeas petition on
23 September 25, 2013. (Doc. No. 1.) Accordingly, the petition is untimely by more
24 than three years unless Petitioner is entitled to sufficient statutory or equitable
25 tolling to make the petition timely.

26 **1. Statutory Tolling**

27 AEDPA establishes a one year statute of limitations for filing a federal habeas
28 corpus petition. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d). That limitation is tolled, or suspended,

1 while “a properly filed application for State post-conviction or other collateral
2 review . . . is pending” in the state courts. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2). “[P]ending’
3 covers the time between a lower state court’s decision and the filing of a notice of
4 appeal to a higher state court.” Carey v. Saffold, 536 U.S. 214, 214 (2002). This
5 time “shall not be counted toward any period of limitations.” Id. To be “properly
6 filed” under this statute, an application must have been filed within the prescribed
7 time limits. See Artuz v. Bennett, 531 U.S. 4, 8 (2000).

8 Respondent argues that, because Petitioner filed his 2012 and 2013 habeas
9 corpus petitions over a year after the statute of limitations period had expired,
10 statutory tolling is not available. (Doc. No. 14-1 at 16.) Petitioner claims he is
11 entitled to statutory tolling because his lawyer did not inform him about the process
12 or how to preserve his right to habeas relief. (Doc. No. 16 at 5.)

13 Petitioner’s statute of limitations expired on May 27, 2010. He filed his first
14 state habeas corpus petition with the San Diego Superior Court on December 5,
15 2012. (Lodgment No. 7, Malo v. People, No. HCN 1265 (petition for writ of habeas
16 corpus at 1). A state petition for writ habeas corpus filed after the expiration of the
17 statute of limitations period has no tolling effect. See Ferguson v. Palmateer, 321
18 F.3d 820, 823 (9th Cir. 2003) (“Section 2244(d) does not permit the reinitiation of
19 the limitations period that has ended before the state petition was filed.”). This
20 2012 state habeas petition was filed over two years after the statute of limitations
21 had expired in 2009. The federal habeas petition was filed almost a year later in
22 2013. As a result, statutory tolling is not applicable in this case.

23 2. Equitable Tolling

24 AEDPA’s statute of limitations is also subject to equitable tolling. Holland v.
25 Florida, 130 S. Ct. 2549, 2560 (2010). “To be entitled to equitable tolling,
26 [Petitioner] must show, ‘(1) that he has been pursuing his rights diligently, and (2)
27 that some extraordinary circumstance stood in his way’ and prevented him from
28 filing.” Lawrence v. Florida, 549 U.S. 327, 336-37 (2007) (quoting Pace v.

1 DiGuglielmo, 544 U.S. 408, 418 (2005)).

2 Equitable tolling is unavailable in most cases, and “the threshold to trigger
3 equitable tolling is very high, lest the exceptions swallow the rule.” Miranda v.
4 Castro, 292 F.3d 1063, 1066 (9th Cir. 2002). Therefore, equitable tolling is
5 available when ““extraordinary circumstances beyond a prisoner’s control made it
6 impossible”” to file a petition on time. Spitsyn v. Moore, 345 F.3d 796, 799 (9th
7 Cir. 2003) (quoting Brambles v. Duncan, 330 F.3d 1197, 1202 (9th Cir. 2003)).
8 The failure to file a petition on time must be the result of external forces, not the
9 result of the petitioner’s lack of diligence. Miles v. Prunty, 187 F.3d 1104, 1107
10 (9th Cir. 1999). “Determining whether equitable tolling is warranted is a ‘fact
11 specific inquiry.’” Spitsyn, 345 F.3d at 799 (quoting Frye v. Hickman, 273 F.3d
12 1144, 1146 (9th Cir. 2001)).

13 Petitioner claims he is entitled to equitable tolling. (Doc. No. 16 at 4-8.) He
14 asserts his attorney did not tell him how to preserve his right to petition for habeas
15 corpus. (Id. at 5.) Despite Petitioner’s assertions, a pro se petitioner’s lack of legal
16 sophistication is not an extraordinary circumstance that qualifies him for equitable
17 tolling. See Raspberry v. Garcia, 448 F.3d 1150, 1154 (9th Cir. 2006). Next,
18 Petitioner claims he has a right to equitable tolling because he had limited access to
19 the law library due to his mandatory prison work assignment. (Doc. No. 16 at 4-7.)
20 Yet, a prison work assignment is also not an extraordinary circumstance that entitles
21 a prisoner to equitable tolling. See Chavez v. California, No. CV 13-0249 DSF
22 (JCG), 2013 WL 5651523, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 11, 2013) (holding that assigned
23 prison job did not constitute extraordinary circumstances).

24 Third, Petitioner argues that the Court should consider his petition despite the
25 expiration of the statute of limitations on a claim of actual innocence. (Doc. No. 16
26 at 7-8 (citing McQuiggin v. Perkins, 133 S. Ct. 1924 (2013)). An exception to the
27 one year statute of limitations applies if a petitioner raises “a convincing claim of
28 actual innocence.” McQuiggin, 133 S. Ct. at 1933-35. Petitioner makes no such

1 claim in this case but merely asserts that “it is more likely than not that no
2 reasonable juror” would have found him guilty if his trial counsel had not let in
3 specific pieces of evidence. (Doc. No. 16 at 7.) This claim does not meet the
4 McQuiggan standard, which demands a “fundamental miscarriage of justice” to
5 allow the exception. McQuiggan, 133 S. Ct. at 1931. Equitable tolling therefore
6 does not apply based on actual innocence doctrine.

7 Finally, Petitioner argues that the statute of limitations violates his
8 constitutional rights under the First and Ninth Amendments. (Doc. No. 16 at 8.)
9 The Constitution requires prisoners to be given a “reasonably adequate opportunity
10 to file nonfrivolous claims challenging their convictions or conditions of
11 confinement.” Lewis v. Casey, 518 U.S. 343, 356 (1996). AEDPA’s one year
12 statute of limitations does not violate these constitutional rights, as prisoners still
13 have a “reasonable opportunity to have their federal claims heard.” Ferguson v.
14 Palmateer, 321 F.3d 820, 823 (9th Cir. 2003). Petitioner had fair opportunity to file
15 his federal claims with the Court in the one year time period provided by the
16 AEDPA. As a result, equitable tolling is not applicable in this case.

17 **B. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel**

18 Petitioner asks the Court to overturn his conviction based on ineffective
19 assistance of counsel. (Doc. No. 1 at 5-6.)

20 In Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 686 (1984), the United States
21 Supreme Court recognized that “the right to counsel is the right to effective
22 assistance of counsel.” To prove ineffective assistance of counsel, a petitioner must
23 show that his attorney's representation fell below an objective standard of
24 reasonableness. Id. at 688. The petitioner must also prove he was prejudiced by
25 demonstrating a reasonable probability that but for his counsel's errors, the result of
26 the proceeding would have been different. Id. at 694.

27 Petitioner argues that his trial attorney, Ronald Lemieux, was ineffective in
28 advising Petitioner to testify at trial, which he states resulted in the admission of

1 evidence of Petitioner's gang affiliation that would otherwise have been
2 inadmissible. (Doc. No. 1 at 5-6.) Mr. Lemieux's decision to advise Petitioner to
3 testify was reasonable under the circumstances. Through his testimony, Petitioner
4 offered his version of the events involved in this case. (Lodgment No. 4, People v.
5 Malo, No. D051302, slip op. at 4-5.) Petitioner does not explain how he would
6 have established a defense to the charges against him without testifying on his own
7 behalf. The fact that the jury acquitted Petitioner of the most serious charges
8 suggests that his decision to testify was at least partly beneficial. (Id. at 5-6.)

9 Thus, Petitioner does not state sufficient facts to establish that Mr. Lemieux's
10 legal assistance fell below an objective standard of reasonableness. Instead,
11 Petitioner describes a reasonable tactical decision on the part of Mr. Lemieux. See,
12 e.g., Harrington v. Richter, 131 S. Ct. 770, 789 (2011) ("Rare are the situations in
13 which the 'wide latitude counsel must have in making tactical decisions' will be
14 limited to any one technique or approach.") (quoting Strickland, 466 U.S. at 689).
15 Moreover, Petitioner does not plausibly explain how this decision prejudiced him,
16 as the facts indicate that his testimony most likely helped him. In its consideration
17 of Petitioner's state habeas petition, the Superior Court of the State of California
18 reached the same conclusion for similar reasons. (See Lodgment No. 8, In re Malo,
19 No. HCN 1265, order at 2-3 (Cal. Super. Ct. Dec. 28, 2012) ("Petitioner was
20 acquitted of the most serious charges against him. It seems unlikely that he would
21 have been acquitted of the more serious offenses had he not testified.").)

22 "Strickland places the burden on the [petitioner] to overcome the 'strong
23 presumption' that counsel's performance was within the 'wide range of reasonable
24 professional assistance' and might be considered 'sound trial strategy.'" Carrera v.
25 Ayers, 670 F.3d 938, 943 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting Strickland, 466 U.S. at 689).
26 Petitioner has not carried this burden. Consequently, in addition to his failure to file
27 his petition within AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations, Petitioner does not state
28 a claim for ineffective assistance of counsel.

1 **C. Sentencing Enhancements**

2 Petitioner argues that he was punished twice for the same conduct because a
3 firearm enhancement was applied to his sentence for assault with a firearm. (Doc.
4 No. 1 at 5, 10.) "Habeas corpus petitions must meet heightened pleading
5 requirements McFarland v. Scott, 512 U.S. 849, 856 (1994). Under Habeas
6 Corpus Rule 2(c), a petitioner is required to "'specify all the grounds for relief
7 available to the petitioner' and 'state the facts supporting each ground.'" Mayle v.
8 Felix, 545 U.S. 644, 655 (2005); see also Robinson v. Hedpeth, No. cv 12-2084 JVS
9 (SS), 2013 WL 618027, at *7 n.3 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2013) ("[T]he relevant federal
10 rule requires that the Petition contain all of Petitioner's grounds for habeas corpus
11 relief."). "If a state prisoner alleges no deprivation of a federal right, § 2254 is
12 simply inapplicable." Engle, 456 U.S. at 120 n.19; see also Peltier v. Wright, 15
13 F.3d 860, 861-62 (9th Cir. 1994).

14 Respondent argues in her motion to dismiss that this assertion does not
15 invoke the United States Constitution and that federal habeas corpus relief is
16 therefore unavailable. (Doc. No. 14-1 at 10-11.) In his opposition, Respondent
17 states that his argument based on his sentencing enhancements is rooted in the
18 Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment and in the Fourteenth
19 Amendment. (Doc. No. 16 at 1-2.)

20 The Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment guarantees that no
21 person may "be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or
22 limb" The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the Double Jeopardy
23 Clause does not apply to sentencing enhancements, nor does it "extend[] to
24 noncapital sentencing proceedings" whatsoever. Monge v. California, 524 U.S.
25 721, 724 (1998); United States v. Watts, 519 U.S. 148, 154 (1997) (per curiam);
26 Witte v. United States, 515 U.S. 389, 398-99 (1995). Thus, Petitioner does not state
27 a claim under the Double Jeopardy Clause.

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Petitioner does not elaborate on his argument that the sentencing enhancement violates the Fourteenth Amendment. (Doc. No. 16 at 1-2.) Petitioner therefore fails to state a claim for federal habeas corpus relief based on his sentencing enhancement.

D. Restitution Fine

Finally, Petitioner alleges the trial court violated his Sixth Amendment rights by imposing a \$10,000 restitution fine. (Doc. No. 1 at 11-12.) Specifically, he states that this fine is above the statutory minimum and that its imposition violated his right to have a jury determine every factual element of any fine. (*Id.* at 12.)

Respondent argues in her motion to dismiss that this assertion neither invokes the United States Constitution nor requests Petitioner's release from custody. (Doc. No. 14-1 at 10-11.) In his opposition, Petitioner states that his arguments pertaining to the restitution fine are premised on his rights guaranteed by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments. (Doc. No. 16 at 2.)

In order to invoke federal habeas corpus jurisdiction, a prisoner must assert that his custody violates federal law. *See* 28 U.S.C.A. § 2254(a). An imposition of a fine "is not sufficient to meet § 2254's jurisdictional requirements." *Bailey v. Hill*, 599 F.3d 976, 979 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing *Williamson v. Gregoire*, 151 F.3d 1180, 1183 (9th Cir. 1998)). Here, Petitioner challenges the restitution fine that the trial court imposed on him, not "the very fact or duration of his physical imprisonment." *Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 500 (1973). Therefore, Petitioner fails to state a claim based on an illegal or improper fine.

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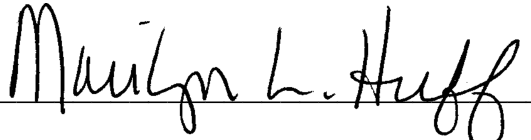
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1 **IV. Conclusion**

2 Petitioner's petition for writ of habeas corpus is not timely under AEDPA.
3 Even if it were not untimely, Petitioner fails to state a claim for federal habeas
4 corpus relief. Accordingly, the Court grants Respondent's motion to dismiss and
5 adopts the report and recommendation.

6 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

7 Dated: June 6, 2014

8 
9 MARILYN L. HUFF, District Judge
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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